

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Serial No. 10/726,632
Sughrue Ref: Q78795

REMARKS

Formal Matters

As an initial matter, Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for foreign priority and confirming receipt of the priority documents in parent Application No. 10/212,811.

In addition, Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the references submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on December 4, 2003, as indicated by the Examiner's initials next to the reference numbers listed on the PTO/SB/08 forms.

Claims 18-38 are all of the pending claims. Claim 18 is the only independent claim.

The Examiner has indicated that claim 37 requires a period. Applicants have amended claim 37 to include a period at the end of the claim.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and §103

Claims 18-20 and 30-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Yamazaki et al. (US 6,198,060). Claims 21-28 and 37-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki in view of Van Zeeland (US 6,069,552). Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki in view of Kaufman et al. (US 5,674,018).

With respect to independent claim 18, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection at least because Yamazaki does not teach or suggest all of the claim recitations. For example, Yamazaki does not teach or suggest the claimed flexible switch having *inter alia* an adhesive

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sheet and a first circuit member provided on the adhesive sheet. The adhesive sheet of the claimed invention allows the switch to be fixed to various mounting members.

Yamazaki discloses a switch having a board 31 and a circuit 42 mounted on the board 31. A contact sheet 33 having an electrode 34 is mounted on the board 31 by an adhesive-coated spacer 32. An EL sheet 37 and a shield layer 35 are provided on the contact sheet 33. A switch sheet 40 is attached to the EL sheet 37 by adhesive layer 39. See Yamazaki at Fig. 3.

However, Yamazaki does not disclose that the board 31 (alleged to be the first circuit member) is provided on an adhesive sheet. According to the rejection, it is the Examiner's position that the circuit 42 correspond to the recited adhesive sheet. However, it is clear that the circuit 42 is not an adhesive sheet.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of independent claim 18. In addition, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of dependent claims 19, 20 and 30-36 at least because of their dependency from claim 18.

Applicants further request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of dependent claims 21-28 and 37-38 at least because of their dependency from claim 18 and because Van Zeeland, which was cited by the Examiner as showing an external connection and bezel front sheet, does not cure the deficiencies in Yamazaki discussed above. Applicants also request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of dependent claim 29 at least because of its dependency from claim 18 and because Kaufman, which was cited by the Examiner as showing an adhesive covered with a release sheet, does not cure the deficiencies in Yamazaki discussed above.

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In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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